

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 6-8 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 6-8 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claims 6-8 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 6-8 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Imschweiler et al. (US Patent 6,428,361). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5 and 9 have been cancelled rendering this rejection moot.

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Docket No.: 4413-0120P

CONCLUSION

In view of the cancellation of the non-allowed claims, it is believed that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

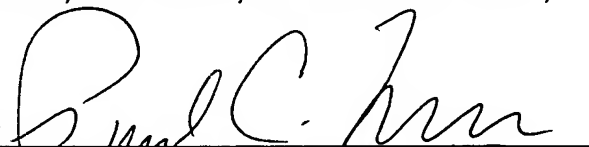
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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